CONSULTATION

1.2.3. Yes, Bòrd na Gàidhlig highlighted that significant investment was needed to ensure that Gaelic education was supported and developed, so as to enable a sustainable for the Gaelic language.

COSTS

4. If the Bill has any financial implications for your organisation, do you believe that they have been accurately reflected in the FM? If not, please provide details.

The Bill places a duty on Bòrd na Gàidhlig for the development of statutory Guidance to support the provisions of the Bill. The Guidance will be comprehensive and detailed and will require management and monitoring resources. This will be a new demand on Bòrd na Gàidhlig and will require a new dedicated resource.

It is not appropriate to suggest this is a “one-off cost” (FM: para. 2, 14). Bòrd na Gàidhlig will require a dedicated resource to research, collect data and develop the evidence base required to advise interested stakeholders on whether requests to provide GMPE can be substantiated by evidence.

The geographical scope of assessment areas have yet to fully clarified and/or agreed with Local Authorities’s and significant work is required to model/map and develop a robust framework that can stand scrutiny, be proportionate and reflect the different realities across rural island, rural mainland to semi-urban and urban areas.

Whilst it might be reasonable to assume that past demand levels could be indicators for the future, we believe that there is significant latent demand for GMPE across Scotland – the Bill by virtue of setting up a transparent and accountable process that gives parents the right to request GMPE will instil confidence, thus in all likelihood giving rise to additional requests beyond “normal” levels.

FM: Para. 2, 6:- indicates the continued provision of Specific Grant Schemes to support Local Authorities in the delivery of GME in their areas. We welcome the provision that these Schemes will continue at 2015-16 funding levels. However, we believe that a complete review should be undertaken of the Gaelic Specific Grants Scheme, in effect, reflecting the new realities that the Bill is likely to generate, and to ensure that a “fit for purpose” Scheme is in place that supports Local Authorities and the new environment for the provision of GMPE across Scotland.
the additional resources allocated to Stòrlann would appear to be sufficient based on current demand profiles. However, cognisance needs to be taken that an increase in demand for GMPE should lead also to increased demand for secondary provision. *Ceteris paribus,* that will require additional human and financial resources to meet increased demand for teaching materials to support schools and Local Authorities, including support systems for parents.

5. Do you consider that the estimated costs and savings set out in the FM are reasonable and accurate?

Based on current knowledge of demand, the estimation of costs is reasonable.

6. If applicable, are you content that your organisation can meet any financial costs that it might incur as a result of the Bill? If not, how do you think these costs should be met?

As indicated above the full delivery of the provisions contained in the Bill will put additional strain on the limited human/financial resources of Bòrd na Gàidhlig. Whilst prioritisation of resources can take place to manage in an effective and efficient manner the provisions of the Bill, it is inevitable the new resources will be required and should be provided to recognise the new demands being placed on the Bòrd to deliver national policy on access to and provision of GMPE.

7. Does the FM accurately reflect the margins of uncertainty associated with the Bill’s estimated costs and with the timescales over which they would be expected to arise?

It is not possible to determine whether margins of uncertainty and risk can be accurately reflected. However, the Bill should signal that where demand is significantly above accepted “normal” levels, then additional resources should be made available to support the delivery of provision and the expectations of parents in requesting GMPE, as these are articulated in the Bill.

**WIDER ISSUES**

8./9. It is not possible to quantify with any degree of certainty the demand profile that will result of the introduction of the Bill, and as such it is not possible to quantify costs in relation to wider issues at this stage.

*Bòrd na Gàidhlig*

*May 2015*